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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Schneewind et al.

Appl. No. : 09/292,437

Filed : April 15, 1999

For : IDENTIFICATION OF
SORTASE GENE

Examiner : A. Navarro

Group Art Unit 1645

I hereby certify that this correspondence and all
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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

02/28/2002 SMINASS1 00000034 09292437

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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460.00 OP

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed on July 23, 2001 (Paper No. 19) in connection with the above-identified patent application, please enter the following amendment, and consider the following arguments. A request for a three-month extension is also attached herewith.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 11-13, 17, 21, and 25, without prejudice.

Please amend claim 8 to read as follows:

8. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a sortase-transamidase enzyme from a Gram-positive bacterium, wherein the enzyme comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: (1) M-K-K-W-T-N-R-L-M-T-I-A-G-V-V-L-I-L-V-A-A-Y-L-F-A-K-P-H-I-D-N-Y-L-H-D-K-D-K-D-E-K-I-E-Q-Y-D-K-N-V-K-E-Q-A-S-K-D-K-K-Q-Q-A-K-P-Q-I-P-K-D-K-S-K-V-A-G-Y-I-E-I-P-D-A-D-I-K-E-P-V-Y-G-P-A-T-P-E-Q-L-N-R-G-V-S-F-A-E-E-N-E-S-L-D-D-Q-N-I-S-I-A-G-H-T-F-I-D-R-P-N-Y-Q-F-T-N-L-K-A-A-K-K-G-S-M-V-Y-F-K-V-G-N-E-T-R-K-Y-K-M-T-S-I-R-D-V-K-P-T-D-V-G-V-L-D-E-Q-K-G-K-D-K-Q-L-T-L-I-T-C-D-D-Y-N-E-K-T-G-V-W-E-K-R-K-I-F-V-A-T-E-V-K (SEQ ID NO: 3); and (2) sequences incorporating one or more conservative amino acid substitutions in SEQ ID NO: 3,